Nippon Times

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System For Voting In Poll Reform, Bill Is Seen As Obstacle

Otherwise, Measure Will Be Passed in Form Originally Drafted by Cabinet

Except for possible amendments on the voting system, which may vitally affect the interests of various political parties and groups, the Government bill for revision of the Election Law, which is scheduled to be introduced into the plenary session of the Lower House this afternoon, will pass through the Diet in the form as originally drafted by the Cabinet, political circles opine.

These circles predict that no amendment will be proposed on the more essential clauses of the bill providing for a new division of constituencies, lowering of the voting age and franchise for women.

The only one point on which the three leading political parties are not in agreement is the voting system, these circles point out. While the Progressives generally favor the Government plan, the Liberals advocate proportional representation on a major electorate system. In the event that the Progressives accept the Government plan, the Liberals, according to these circles, will propose an amendment for continuation of the existing single ballot system.

The Social Democrats, meanwhile, support the single vote transfer system for proportional representation on the major electorate system.

In the event that the three parties fail to arrive at a compromise, the opinion of the Progressive Party will prevail by a majority vote, it is expected.

Split Said Inevitable

Speculations were rife in political circles Saturday that the threatened split of the Progressive Party may *became a reality in the very near future because of the Party leaders' failure to find* a suitable person to head the party.

General Kazushige Ugaki, whom leaders of the Progressive Party are anxious to persuade to become its president, stated to the press Saturday that he would run for election to the Diet as an Independent from his native Okayama Prefecture in the forthcoming general elections.

This statement made by Ugaki is taken by political observers as meaning that he has no intention to accept the offer to become president of the Progressive Party, at least, until after the general elections are over.

According to well-informed political observers, the question of choosing a president for the Progressive Party is now completely deadlocked with no prospects of its solution in any immediate future.

Evasive About Future

General Kazushige Ugaki, who has jumped into political limelight as the result of the reported offer made to him by Progressive leaders to become president of the party, was all evasive as to his future plans.

In an exclusive interview with Jiji Saturday, the 77-year-old politician-general frankly admitted that an offer had been made to him to assume the presidency of the Progressive Party. He promptly added, however, that he had not yet given any definite answer to that offer.

Meanwhile leaders of the Progressive Party were continuing their efforts to persuade Ugaki to accept their offer to became president of the party. Yusuke Tsurumi, secretary-general of the Party, called on the general Saturday.

Tsurumi said that the president of the party would be chosen from among the three candidates, namely, Ugaki, Chuji Machida, former head of the Minseito Party, and Takao Saito, veteran politician reputedly of strong liberal leanings.

MUST RENDER TO ALLIES PROPERTIES IN TEHERAN

At the request of the Royal Swedish Legation in Tokyo, the Allied Supreme Headquarters directed, on Friday, the Japanese Government to complete transfer of the diplomatic consular property and archives in Teheran to the American, British, Chinese and Soviet Russian representatives.

Iran Sovereignty Affirmed

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Secretary of State James Brynes, today, reaffirmed the United States pledge at Teheran to maintain the independence and sovereignty of Iran. The State Department spokesman said, "Russia has not replied to the United States suggestion to permit the publication of Russia's message declining the American proposal that the three Powers evacute Iran by January 1.

Rice Riots Loom! Imperial Visit to Tohoku Sought

Farmers Have Lost All Trust In Government—Mental Confusion Rife

The farmers of the Tohoku area have lost all confidence in the muddle-through policies of the Government and if things are left in the present state the rice-sale to the Government will fall off to half the expected amount, eventually resulting in rice riots.

Fifteen representatives from Akita Prefecture called on Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni, former Prime Minister, at his Azabu residence on Saturday morning to present a formal and earnest request beseeching His Majesty the Emperor to make a visit to the six Tohoku prefectures to dispel the mental confusion existing, among the agricultural communities in the area. The representatives, in their plea for favorable Imperial consideration of their pressing request, explained that if the situation is not alleviated, no rice will be forthcoming from the Tohoku and that there are, even now, threats of rice riots in the air, according to the Mainichi.

The farmers have absolutely no trust in the Government nor the prefectural administration, the delegates told Prince Higashikuni. Their feelings have been roused to such a pitch that they believe that if the rice were unwittingly delivered into the hands of the officials, "that would be the end of the matter." Under such circumstances it is only natural that they should refuse to part with their crop they said and added the warning that only 60 per cent of the rice-sale to the Government would be realized.

With the aggravation of conditions, the farmers are losing all prospects for the future and are being plunged into a maelstorm of mental confusion, the only remedy for which is an Imperial visit to encourage them spiritually and to help them regain their confidence and stability.

Prince Higashikuni is reported to have given his assurance that the matter would be relayed to the Throne. To his question on rural reverberations to the recent farm legislations now before the Diet, the delegates replied that the bills were full of shortcomings and that in order to satisfy the farmers the Government would have to buy up all the land and the tilling rights and carry out a thorough land redistribution program. If reconstruction of the farming communities is to be effectively carried out, they claimed, the move must be pushed to this point.

"Does this imply national ownership of land," the Prince asked.

"The ideal plan would be a 10-year State ownership, in deference to the position of the landowners, during which time a self-administrative system in farming towns and villages, as units, would be set up. Production and consumption would be balanced with a self-governing body to determine the required sale of produce to the urban areas, thus doing away with blackmarketing," was the opinion of the delegates.

They severely criticized the planless policies of the Government, scathingly declaring that it, "always tries to take away from the farmers before giving them anything," and bemoaned the fact that not only would the farmers be left unsaved but the nation would go on starving under present conditions.

Byrnes Reiterates Support For Chiang

Defends Atcheson and Service Who Were Accused of Disloyalty by Hurley

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Reiterating the United States support of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Government, Secretary of State Byrnes told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday that "we also believe it must be broadened to include representatives of those large, well-organized groups who are without any voice in the government of China."

He said that in trying to bring together the Central Government and the Communists, United States influence should be used "to encourage concessions" by both sides. He reiterated the United States troops are in China "for the sole purpose" of helping with the surrender of Japanese troops.

Byrnes said he was not able to find evidences of disloyalty by George Atcheson or John Service whom Major General Patrick Hurley charged sought to wreck his efforts for a unified China.

He challenged Hurley's assertion that the former ambassador was unable to get a public statement of American policy toward china from President Truman and Byrnes. He said Hurley never asked for such a statement.

He defended the propority of two communications sent to Washington by Atcheson and Service on which, he said, Hurley relied for support of his charges. He said Atcheson recommended a readjustment of our immediate strategy in China. Service recommended a basic change in United States policy toward the Central Government of China.

He did not elaborate, but added the policy then and now was to support the Central Government.

"It is difficult to understand Hurley's intimation that his failure to achieve a satisfactory settlement of China's internal division resulted from the absence of a public expression of our policy."

To Amplify Contention

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 7.—Major General Patrick Hurley will appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to amplify his contention that Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson "defeated" American foreign policy in Iran.

Hurley said he preferred that Acheson's actions be disclosed by State Department documents which have not been introduced.

Meanwhile, the committee invited Secretary of State Byrnes to develop his side of the controvery between Hurley and the State Department. Chairman Connally said Byrnes had been furnished a complete transcript of Hurley's testimony the past two days and would be invited to go through it point by point.

4,000 Indians Killed

Four thousand people are reported to have been killed and 40,000 made homeless by the tidal wave which struck northwest India last Wednesday, according to a New Delhi report the same day. This report had been brought back to Karachi by a party of relief workers. The tidal wave followed a violent earthquake which is believed to have occurred in the Arabian Sea between Karachi and Bombay. The wave swept over 100 miles of the coast west of Karachi.

Poorest Season for Rice Since 1900 Is Predicted As Crop Drops Further

Actual rice crop of the year has further decreased to 40,292,000 koku, it was announced by the National Agricultural Society Saturday. This figure does not include the crop for Hiroshima Prefecture. According to the forecast made by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry the crop was estmiated at 42,967,000 koku, but as the Hiroshima crop will be about 1,000,000 koku, the total for the country will probably be 40,292,000 koku, or the poorest season since 1900.

Invectives Featuring China-Yenan Discord

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 7.—Apart from small-scale clashes, China's civil strife seems to have settled into an uncivil battle of words, in which first one side then the other excels itself.

Pro-Nationalist organizations in different parts of the countrty and even abroad are busy sending telegrams to Chungking urging the Government to suppress the "suversive" activities of the Communists.

Pro-Communist bodies are similarly busy. Placing the blame on Chungking, they demand the Government should "immediately halt its attacks." Coupled with this is the recurrent plea for establishment of a coalition government and a unified high command.

In the battle of words, each side has accused the other of employing Japanese troops. The latest Communist charge in this respect is that the Nationalists are using 100,000 Japanese to establish "blockade lines" and build defense works. They assert that a large-scale anti-Communist drive is contemplated when this job is completed.

The Communists also are making capital out of the strike of 6,000 students at Kunming. The recent death there of four students who were mortally injured when two grenades were thrown, allegedly by two former soldiers, is portrayed by the Communists as a massacre inspired by Nationalist officials. On the other hand, Nationalist sources say the incident was planned by Communist elements for the express purpose of creating unrest. The Communists continue to claim that General Ho Ying-chin, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Army, is a "notorious' pro-Japanese warlord." They demand his dismissal and punishment.

Behind this background of mutual recriminations and scattered clashes, preparations are being made for the long delayed "peace conference." It is tentatively scheduled to open in Chungking around December 15.

The talks will begin when the political consultative council is activited. All outstanding issues between the Nationalist and Communists have been tossed to this organ. Its creation was envisaged in a joint Nationalist-Communist communique issued October 10 after 45 days of parleying here. The general impression in Chungking is that the council will not achieve much.

Greece Seeks British Loans

Kyodo-AP

ATHENS, December 9.—Authoritative sources said Greece is seeking a loan of $40.800.000 from Great Britain and a release of part of her reserve funds now held by British banks to help stabilize the drachma.

Loan Bill Is Opposed By Tories in Britain

Will Also Fight Measure Regarding the Bretton Woods Agreement

Kyodo-USIS

LONDON, December 8.—Less than 24 hours after completing negotiations with the United States for a $4,400,000,000 loan, the British Government yesterday introduced in the Commons both the bretton Woods Agreement and the loan agreement. Participation of Britain in the Bretton Woods Agreement was a condition of the loan.

The conservatives began opposition to both measures yesterday with the introduction of a motion to disapprove them. Debate is to begin on the 12th.

Bitter Struggle Looms

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 7.—The Administration today marshalled its arguments behind the $4,400,000,000 credit offer to Britain, convinced that any material change would endanger hopes for Anglo-American trade cooperation.

Signs pointed to a bitter struggle over congressional approval of the loan.

State Department and Treasury officials who participated in the joint talks said they were convinced that any major change in the loan terms would force Britain to reject the loan altogether.

A sampling of the nation's editorial pages disclosed an everwhelming majority of the commenting newspapers were in favor of the proposed loan to Britain as necessary to the revival of world trade and the financial recovery of an invaluable ally.

Most newspapers said the loan would be greatly to United States advantage since the revival of British economy would provide a giant market for American goods.

INDONESIAN MOVE TO KILL GENERAL CHRISTISON FAILS

Kyodo-USIS

BATAVIA, December 8.—INS reported a new outbreak of fighting at Semarang airfield on Thursday night when Indonesian forces attacked with mortar fire.

Meanwhile, the British bombed Indonesian gun sites near Ambarawa after the Indonesian had fired 15 shells at the Ambarawa jail.

UP reported that an apparent attempt to assassinate General Philip Christison, British Commander in Java, failed on Friday when a hand grenade thrown at his plane at Kemajoran airfield failed to damage it.

MAY ACT WITHOUT FRANCE

3 Powers Outline Plans in Their Three German Occupation Areas

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Secretary of State James Byrnes said last week that the United States, Britain and Russia might act without France to centralize transportation and currency in their three German occupation zones.

He declared that the United States might suggest such a course if the French representatives on the Allied Control Council continue to block action on the unanimity rule to veto certain agencies, on grounds that the Allied first should determine finally whether the Ruhr and Rhineland are to be separated from Germany.

Okamura Is Named No. 1 War Criminal By China Red Body

Charged With Hopeh Massacre—Tojo, 47 Others Moved To Sugamo Prison

Kyodo-AP

YENAN, December 8.—The Chinese Communist War Crime Commission charged yesterday that General Yasuji Okamura, former commander of Japanese forces in China, personally directed and witnessed the massacre of an entire North China village in 1942.

The commission, through its chairman, named Okamura as the No. 1 war criminal and demanded that he be arrested. Okamura now is in Nanking as chief liaison officer between Chinese nationalist troops and the remaining Japanese forces.

Lieutenant General Takashi Tada, Okamura's predecessor, was named as war criminal No. 2 and accused of having ordered the mass execution of more than 1,000 men, women and children.

Okamura's sanction and attendance at the destruction of Peitang village in central Hopeh Province was one of several known atrocities he personally ordered, the Communists charge.

They added that 800 persons were driven into a tunnel, sealed in and suffocated on July 1, 1941, they also charged Okamura ordered more than 2,000 soldiers of the Communist 8th Route Army to be used for bayonet practice in Tsiyuan, capital of Shansi Province.

Tojo Moved to Sugamo

"General Tojo, Japan's top war leader, his war cabinet members and several high army officers were among the 48 Japanese moved Friday from the Omori prisoner of war camp to Sugamo Prison. Colonel Robert M. Hardy, commanding officer of the prison, announced. The group included Lieutenant General Homma, who was in command of the Japanese troops in the Philippines and is credited with the Bataan Death March.

The Omori camp is now empty, Colonel Hardy said, and in the future all war criminals will be detained in the more prison-like Sugamo structure in Tokyo. Omori was opened as a place of detention for war criminals on September 22, and the Sugamo Prison began to receive war criminals in November. Colonel Hardy described Sugamo as a fairly modern structure along the style of prisons in the United States and much more confining than the Omori camp.

Trials Begin December 17

TOKYO, (AP) December 8.—The Army today announced officially that the first war criminal trials will begin on December 17 in Yokohama for the Japanese accused of atrocities against American prisoners of war.

The trials will be heard by an American military tribunal. Approximately 300 Japanese military and civilian personnel will be tried in the category of "atrocity" crimes.

3 Navy Men Wanted

General MacArthur's headquarters, on Tuesday, ordered the Japanese Government to apprehend Commander Kunito Hatakeyama, attached to the Naval Department, Tokyo, and Lieutenant Commander Kenichi Nakagawa, retired, who must be handed over to the authorities of the Sugamo, Prison Camp after the completion of the Japanese court martial trial which is now under way concerning the two officers.

It is directed that the Government must furnish the Allied Supreme Headquarters with complete translations in English of all proceedings of the court, including evidence under oath in the said case of the two naval officers.

On orders from SCAP dated December 7, the government also was directed to apprehend Naval Warrant Officer Kiroku Horie, who formerly served on Wake Island and was repatriated aboard the S.S. Hikawa Maru on November 1. Warrant Officer Horie will be incarcerated at Sugamo Prison.

Tug Rescues U.S. Transport

Kyodo-AP

NEW YORK, December 7.—The navy said that the rescue tug Restorer took the drifting troop transport Henry Ward Beecher in tow and was expected to arrive in Bermuda Sunday.

Doolittle Gets New Post.

Kyodo-AP

SAN FRANCISCO, December 7.—Lieutenant General James Doolittle, leader of the first air attack on Tokyo, will leave the army air forces to become vice-president of the Shell Oil Corporation on January 1, the company announced yesterday.

VIRTUAL REPRIEVE GIVEN TO YAMASHITA; P.I. CRIMES FORMALLY CHARGED HOMMA

Former Army Leader Being Moved To Manila To Stand Trial Soon

TOKYO, (AP) December 9.—The United States formally charged Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma, former Commander of the Japanese Army in the Philippines, today with permitting the murderous "March of Bataan" and scores of other atrocities against Americans and Filipinos in the first hopeless days of Bataan and Corregidor.

Paving the way for the early trials of Homma and four other Japanese officers in Manila, SCAP made public formal charges against the big, 58-year-old Imperial army officer consisting of two broad charges and 42 specifications.

While Homma was not charged with committing atrocities himself or of ordering them, he was accused of permitting the troops under his command to rape, murder, rob and pillage and by thus doing "violated the laws of war."

The allegations took in the whole brutal story of the early days of the Philippines when the Japanese, running rampant, wrote a bloody page in history with beheadings of Americans, the bombing of Manila after it had been declared an open city, the awful March of Death in which approximately 1,200 Americans and 16,000 Filipinos died or were listed as missing and the brutal treatment, murder and starvation of prisoners of war.

4 Also Named

Four other officers charged were Lieutenant Colonel Saichi Ohta, Commander of the dreaded Kempei-tai or Military Police in the Philippines in 1942; Major Zenzo Saito Commander of the "Tiger Unit" of the army in the Philippines, Major Takashi Tohei, Commander of the Kempei-tai unit near Manila, and Colonel Akira Nagahama, Commander-in-Chief of the Kempei-tai from late 1942 to 1945. These lesser officers, too, were accused of sanctioning atrocities against both Americans and Filipinos.

Homma, now held in Sugamo prison camp outside Tokyo, will be taken to Manila shortly and other officers not now held in the Philippines will be moved there for trial, the dates of which will be set by Lieutenant General Styer before an American military commission presumably of the same type as condemned General Tomoyuki Yamashita.

Homma, veteran of 38 years service in the Japanese Imperial army, faced this major, specific charge:

"That Masaharu Homma between 8 December, 1941, and 15 August, 1942, then Lieutenant General of the Japanese Imperial Army and Commander-in-Chief in the Philippines of the armed forces of Japan at war with the United States of America and its Allies, did unlawfully disregard and fail to discharge his duties as such commander to control operations of members of his command, permitting them to commit brutal atrocities and other high crimes against the people of the United States of America and its Allies and dependencies, particularly the Philippines; and he, Masaharu Homma, thereby violated the laws of war." This charge was much like the charge against Yamashita for which precedent now has been established.

The second broad charge against Homma alleged that on May 6, 1942, Homma "unlawfully refused to grant quarter to the armed forces of the United States of America and its Allies in Manila Bay, Philippines and did thereby violate the laws of war."

Japanese Bomb Manila

Specification One charged that after Manila had been declared an open city the Japanese bombed it on December 27 and 28. The charges then moved to Bataan, where the General Hospital No. 1, "Little Baguio" was bombed April 7, 1942, killing and wounding 69 Americans and 52 Filipinos. The Japanese artillery, it alleged, refused to permit evacuations of Americans in Hospital No. 2 and by firing on Corregidor drew return fire which killed Americans and Filipinos.

It was in May that at the same Hospital No. 2 the Japanese bayoneted and murdered American and Filipino prisoners of war and in both hospitals the Japanese "deliberately failed" to provide food, medical and clothing to patients.

At Cabeaban, a Japanese officer beheaded an entire Filipino family of eight including one child and in April Corporal Gotlieb Neigum and another American soldier, both prisoners, were beaten and hung, suspended by their wrists from a tree for a day and half.

Members of the vaunted 16th Japanese Division tortured approximately 25 Filipino prisoners by using them for bayonet practice on Bataan. All died. At Marivales airfield, the Japanese air force strafed American and Filipino forces despite the fact they were displaying a large white flag of truce. It was also in Marivales, where the Japanese tortured Lieutenant Joseph Boyland for refusing to give information and hacked at him with knife and refused him food and water for three or four days.

Death March Described

But of all the specifications, none exceeded or compared with the specification appropriately numbered 13 which ten subdivision told of the "death march of Bataan." It told how 10,500 Americans and approximately 74,800 Filipinos, all prisoners of war, were forced to march 60 to 120 kilometers from Bataan to San Frenando, although "transportation was available and was being used under the terms of surrender agreement."

It specifically told of the murder by bayoneting of Private John Doran, Sergeant Joe R. Vaughn, Colonel McConnel, commanding officer, Privates John Osowski, Robert Baldwin, Harry Iachante, Captain David Miller, and Second Lieutenant Glenn Shaffner.

"How the Filipinos and Americans alike, who were unable because of disease to continue the march, were killed by bayonets, Japanese soldiers also related. There was tieing together and murder by beheading, bayoneting or shooting near Pantingan River of approximately 400 officers and non-comes of the Filipino army. There were brutal mistreatment of Colonel Utenberg, Captain Spigler, Master Sergeant Lee and numerous other American and Filipino officers.

The requiring of these men to march under hot rays of the sun without cover was described as "brutal torture." Specifications told of how the Japanese robbed and looted the prisoners of their money, jewelry, and toilet articles and how one Japanese with a rifle but knocked out the teeth of one American soldier to obtain the gold fillings.

There was herding of prisoners into box-cars so tight they were not able to sit down and jamming them into barns. And there was "victory march" down Dewey Boulevard, where they were "exhibited as objects of humiliation and degragation."

MacArthur Ordered by War Secretary to Withhold Final Action

The U.S. Secretary of War has ordered General Douglas MacArthur that "final action in the Yamashita case be withheld pending disposal by the Supreme Court of the petitions for writ of habeas corpus and prohibition now pending," the MacArthur Headquarters announced on Sunday.

Tantamount to Reprieve

TOKYO, (AP) December 9.—General Tomoyuki Yamashita, sentenced to death by hanging for condoning atrocities by his troops in the Philippines, received what was tantamount to a reprieve today.

Yamashita was convicted Friday by a military tribunal in Manila on charges of being responsible for the acts of his Japanese forces in the Philippines. He lost an appeal to the Philippines supreme court.

No date for Yamashita's execution had been announced prior to the action by Secretary Patterson. The Justice Department in Washington already has asked the Supreme Court not to intervene. It is probably the first time, Washington dispatches said, that the high tribunal concerned itself with the verdict of a military commission on a military man.

The Supreme Court, it is expected, first will decide whether it has jurisdiction before examining the appeal of the "Tiger of Malaya" and record of the three-week trial in Manila.

World War II Cost Big

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 9.—James Brady, researcher, and the American University here in a survey announced that the cost of World War II was one trillion and 154,000,000 dollars for armament and war material and about $230 billion in property damage. The survey did not include the cost of armaments and property damage in China for which the figures were not available.

Passes P.I. Poll Bill

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 7.—The House today passed a legislation specifying that the Philippine national elections will be held by April 30, 1946. The measure was passed by the Senate December 6.

'Emperor Is Guilty,' Says Tokyo Journal

Minpo Suggests Abdication; Leftist Rally Names Over 1,300 War Guilty

Declaring the Emperor as responsible for the war, the Minpo, newly-published Tokyo evening paper, in its editorial on Saturday, suggested early abdication or other steps necessary to keep His Majesty out of politics.

The Minpo, or the People, is the first liberal paper which openly pointed out the war responsibility of the Emperor. However, contrary to the Communists, the journal does not insist on abolition of the Tenno system.

Gist of the editorial follows:

Frankly speaking, we want to point out that His Majesty is also responsible for the war. It is a clear fact that hostilities were started by the Imperial Rescript announcing the declaration of war against the United States and Britain.

Because of this Imperial Command, all the people in this country made war efforts, patiently bearing all sorts of difficulties. His Majesty said in the Rescript that the declaration was not in accord with the Imperial Wish. However, His Majesty cannot evade the responsibility for bringing about the situation in which Japan finds itself today.

This responsibility is a moral question, apart from Constitutional argument. Now is the time for the Japanese people to face the Tenno problem with a cool-headed attitude. The Allied authorities have made clear their stern stand in report to war criminals.

Immediately after the formal surrender of Japan, the Government considered establishment of a Regency to effectuate the virtue abdication of His Majesty. However, the Government later believing that the Allied authorities would not be severe on the question of the Emperor, began attempting to bury this issue.

What will the Government and the elder statesmen do in case General MacArthur should order the apprehension of His Majesty? It is urgently necessary to take steps, such as abdication, to keep the Emperor out of politics. No time should be wasted on revision of the Constitution or the Imperial Household Law which are matters of mere formalism.

Leftist Name War Felons

A comprehensive list of more than 1,300 persons whom the leftists deists desire to call to account for war responsibility was made public at a mass rally for clarification of the war guilt held at the Kyoritsu Hall, Kanda, on Saturday the anniversary of the outbreak of the Pacific war.

The rally was sponsored by the Japan Communist Party and five other leftist organizations, which jointly prepared the list of war criminals seen by the Japanese side.

The list is headed by the Emperor, followed by the Empress, Empress Dowager, and all adult male members of the Imperial Family, except Prince Takehiko Yamashina, who is reported to be suffering from mental derangement.

Other names on the list comprise 23 court officials, 130 high leaders of the Army and Navy, 135 former members of the Cabinet, 19 diplomats, 16 prefectural governors, 32 judicial officers, 32 police officers, 38 privy councilors, 165 members of the House of Peers, 357 members of the House of Representatives; 86 Zaibatsu leaders, 168 rightists, 70 journalists, 42 novelists, 50 scholars, 19 women leaders, 114 labor leaders, 45 religious leaders, and 13 Koreans.

Out of the members of the present Cabinet, six Ministers including Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara, Foreign Minister Shigeru Yoshida, Finance Minister Keizo Shibusawa, Education Minister Tamon Mayeda, Justice Minister Chuzo Iwata and Home Minister Zenjiro Horikiri are mentioned.

Considerable stress appears to be laid on cultural circles in preparing the list, in which such well-known novelists as Kan Kikuchi and Masao Kume are named, while those women charged with war guilt include Mrs. Tojo, wife of General Hideki Tojo.

That the Communists and other leftists are not lenient even to members of the Social Democratic Party is shown by the fact that three of its leaders, including Mitsu Kono, Inajiro Asanuma, and Rikizo Hirano, are on the list.

The fact that leaders of the Army and Navy occupy only about 10 per cent of the designated war criminals may be taken to indicate that the leftists are not equipped with efficient machinery to probe into the war guilt of inner circles of the fighting services.

India Not Getting Freedom

Kyodo-UP

NEW YORK, December 9.—Walter Winchell, well known American columnist, declared last week that Britain will never give freedom to India as the result of discovery that uranium has been substituted by thorium in the production of the atomic bomb. He said the world's largest thorium deposits are found in India.

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

The plenary session of the Budget Committee of House of Representatives was resumed at 1:47 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Masaru Sakamoto, Societ Democrat, question the government on the personal message sent by President Roosevelt to His Majesty the Emperor just before the outbreak of war, and asked how the message was handled. Replying to this question, Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara said that he had no knowledge of the manner in which the said Presidential message was handled by the Japanese Government at that time.

Then Sakamoto referred to the falseness of the announcements made by the Imperial Headquarters during the war. He said that they differed greatly from those made by the United States after the war and thus it is suspected that the actual war situation was not truly reported to the Throne by the Imperial Headquarters.

The Prime Minister replied that although he understood what was meant by the interpellator, he was not in authority at that time and thus did not hear anything from those in charge of the Government.

Then, Sakamoto asked why the Government failed to request the Throne to abandon the Imperial properties, for instance, before receiving the directive from the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers for the freezing of the Imperial Household assets. But the Prime Minister refused to answer.

Sakamoto then said that the First and Second Demobilization Ministries are not necessary and that matter respecting demobilization can be handled by a bureau of a Cabinet department. Furthermore, he remarked that the existence of of these Ministries gives an impression that the confrontation of the Army and Navy still remains. The Prime Minister said, in reply that although the unification of the two Ministries is desirable, the process of uniting them into one Ministry will take time and may hinder speedy demobilization.

Interpellator, Sakamoto then discussed the future economic activity of the nation, and said that the capital and management of big enterprises should be separated, and employes and their unions permitted to participate in management. Particularly, enterprises with small capital for manufacturing and dealing in consumption goods should be operated by capital and lator acting in unison. The Prime Minister replied that he would fully consider the interpellator's view in the future policy of the Government.

Commerce and Industry Minister Sankuro Ogasawara replied that the economic policy should be established according to actual conditions, aiming particularly at free competition, removal of monopolies, and deciding the relations among enterprises, between enterprises and employes, enterprises and consumers, and enterprises and the Government.

Finance Minister Shibusawa also replied that as question of reparations and other matters have not yet been made clear he was unable to speak definitely, but believes the cooperative union system would be beneficial to small enterprises, even though there might be still some difficulty before attaining its realization.

Regarding coal production, Sakamoto said the greatest cause for the the coal shortage is the bad treatment given to coal miners, and stressed that the cousmers' associations at coal mines should be operated by miners' unions. Welfare Minister Ashida acknowledged that in the past the treatmen of coal miners was not good in many cases. The food conditions was cited as one of example.

Because so many war victims are without houses, Sakamoto feared that there might arise a disturbance in the comming winter. He claimed that military clothing is being kept in stock in large quantities without being utilized. President Kobayashi of the Damage Rehabilitation Board replied that utmost efforts were being made to utilize military buildings or war damaged buildings as houses for the sufferers.

Sanzo Matsuo, Progressive, said that the price of coal was too low. The Commerce and Industry Minister replied that when the government subsidy is added, the purchasing price at mines in the latter half of 1945 year will became higher.

Then Matsuo asked the Government if it intends to revive the more than 300 small coal mines which were adjusted and suspended during the war. The Commerce and Industry Minister replied that when applications for revival are made by submitting concrete plans, permission will be given as far as possible.

After the interpellations by Shuichi Ono, independent, and Zenuyemon Higuchi, Progressive, on the supplementary budget for the present fiscal year, the session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Viewing The Diet

By Our Special Observer

The questions and answers that passed between Isaji Tanaka, Independent, and Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara in the budget committee of the House of Representatives on December 7 concerning constitutional revision, the position of senior statesmen that stand between the Emperor and the people, and reform of the House of Peers, caused widespread interest. They certainly were an aid to persons who wish to understand the form of politics prevailing in Japan.

With regard to constitutional revision, Tanaka demanded the Prime Minister to make public the result of the inquiry conducted by the Office of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal into the question of reform of the Constitution.

He also asked that the Government advise the Throne to order reforms in the Constitution.

The Prime Minister's reply to the first question was that the Government could not publish the reply of the Office of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal to the Imperial inquiry regarding reform of the Constitution.

With regard to the second question the Prime Minister said the Government could not ask the issuance of an Imperial order to reform the Constitution so long as the preparations for the step are not complete.

Tanaka made further demands. In the first place he demanded the complete elimination of the "stratum of senior statesmen." Secondly he insisted on the abolition of the Privy Council. Thirdly he asked for reform of the House of Peers.

In reply to these questions Prime Minister Shidehara said: "In fact there does not exist today any special class of people that may be termed the stratum of senior statesmen. With regard to reform of the Privy Council and the House of Peers, the matter is being studied by the Government."

Tanaka was not satisfied with the Prime Minister's reply to the effect that the stratum of senior statesmen does not exist. He pressed for enlightenment on the meaning of the curt reply returned by the Prime Minister. He ended his interpellation when he decided that any further things the Prime Minister might say on the subject would not get him anywhere.

Tanaka's anxiety about the subject on which he had failed to receive any satisfactory reply from the Prime Minister is the anxiety of all the people of Japan.

What may be termed the stratum of senior statesmen has been a peculiar and baffling existence in Jaan's system of constitutional government which has been said to be on the basis of democratic principles since it emerged into being.

As a matter of fact the political system which has prevailed in Japan has lacked the element of democracy. It has been dominated by the element of a startling form of feudalism, with only a very small amount of democracy in it to enliven it.

Thus there has been in the system much room for the existence of a Rasputin-like element. Such an element emerged. This has been the so-called stratum of senior statesmen. This has been the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. This has been the Privy Council, an extension of the Office of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.

Speaking paradoxically, when there is the end of the stratum of senior statesmen, and when the Office of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal has been abolished, so long as there is the Emperor, so long as the Constitution remains unaltered, and so long as the Privy Council continues in being, and so long as the House of peers continues functioning as it has done in the past, one cannot exclude the possibility of a second stratum of senior statesmen and a second Office of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal coming into existence at any time.

This is what is feared by the people at large. This is the reason why the people are not satisfied with the denial made by the Prime Minister, as a matter of form, that there is such a possibility. This is the reason why the people, unable to find satisfaction in the remarks made by the Prime Minister in reply to Tanaka in the Lower House budget committee, are clamoring for the abolition of the Privy Council and radical reforms in the House of Peers.

Throughout the present Diet session the Government has adopted an attitude of extreme caution toward questions of this sort. It should be said that it has been cautious to the point of being craven. As Tanaka pointed out, the Government refused to take the people into its confidence regarding these matters in a manner that exasperated them.

In his impatience Tanaka told the Prime Minister: "What is the reason that the Government should be reluctant to open its mind when the people wishes so greatly to have a frank talk with it on these matters."

Why does the Government refrain from confiding in the people? It is that the Government in fear of the reaction which might be caused among certain quarters by the publication of the whole program it may have of settling these issues.

But Diet proceedings have shown that there is no longer any necessity for the Government to pay any attention to such technical phases of the question. On this point the Diet, which is said not to be representing the people in many other points, is in complete agreement with the people.

The demands of the people concerning the Emperor system, reform of the Constitution, and improvement of the legislative machinery have taken concrete shape. Their minimum demands, to judge by utterances on the floor in the Diet, are for the maintenance of the Emperor system on the basis of the principle that a sovereign does not do evil and that a sovereign does not actually govern although he rules, that is, the principle that a soveregin has no political responsibilities, for the aboliton of all intermediate institution between the Emperor and the people, and for government according to the will of the people.

The Communist Party is for the abolition of the Emperor system. The Social Democratic Party, for its part, has flatly declared itself in favor of the system. The present Diet has so far seen no single utterance in favor of the idea of ending the Emperor system. As far as the issue of the Emperor system is concerned, the result of the coming general election will not reveal any change in the attitude of the people as is made manifest by the sentiment of the Diet toward the issue.

The question of the responsibility of the Emperor for the war is separate from that of maintaining the Emperor system.

There are two questions on which the present Government seems to be adopting an attitude which obviously is not supported by the people.

The one is the sort of government to be provided, and the other the future of the Privy Council.

The attitude of the Government toward the first question is that of providing government on the basis of respect for the popular will, instead of government according to the popular will, and the attitude toward the second question that of keeping the Privy Council in being after it has been reformed in some degree.

The House of Peers as it is constituted today is out of the question. The one remaining point to be decided is whether the legislative department of the government should have one or two chambers.

The important thing is for the Government to act positively in getting the people to express through the Diet their will concerning the reform of the Constitution and questions of like nature arising out of the situation which has developed in the country and at the same time to state clearly its convictions on these questions.

From present indications the Government will continue to keep its own councils regarding these matters, and each time such questions come up the Diet and for that matter the people will sink into despondency.

HOUSE LACK HITS NANKING

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 9.—From the viewpoint of over crowding and other discomforts, Nanking is expected to became another Chungking.

Several embassies in Chungking are known to be disgruntled over what they consider to be the indifference and inconsideration of the Chinese Foreign Office in helping them to find suitable accommodations in Nanking. The Foreign Office, however, takes the view that it is doing the best it can under the circumstances.

Part of the blame is placed on the Japanese. Cabinet spokesman P. H. Chang who recently visited Nanking said the housing shortage there was acute. Roads were in very bad condition because the Japanese had never effected necessary repairs.

"From the way they looked after Nanking it doesn't seem as if they planned to stay there permanently," he remarked.

Reich Withheld 'A' Bomb Study From Japan, Close Coeffort Was Myth, Oshima Reveals

TOKYO, (AP) December 8.—Germany withheld its atomic bomb research from Japan, but the Japanese learned about it anyway "unofficially," Lieutenant General Hiroshi Oshima, wartime ambassador to Berlin, disclosed today.

In an Associated Press interview, the squat, heavy-featured diplomat, who arrived here three days ago to find himself listed as a suspected war criminal, expressed a series of negations:

He received no "orders" from Hitler to try and push Japan into war with America.

Germany did not plan to send troops to the Pacific.

The two axis partners had no compact for sharing domination of the world if their respective campaigns succeeded.

Hitler and his high command did not know in advance of plans for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Hitler was "delighted" when he heard the news.

Oshima, who was interned three months at Bedford, Pennsylvaia, before being returned to Japan, said Germany and Japan collaborated only slightly on new or secret weapons, but that they did make "one or two exchanges." He declined to identify these weapons or to say whether they ewre used in the Pacific.

The 59-year-old Ambassador, toying with his monacle, said Germany did not tell Japan officially that she was working on the atomic bomb. He said his staff found out about it in "conversations with German officers." He asserted he wouldn't tolerate the Japanese spy system within Germany, saying "I don't work that way."

Oshima saw Hitler three or four times a year. The last time was October, 1944, when he visited the Nazi dicator in his headquarters in East Prussia. He said Hitler explained the war situation as "not good" since the invasion of France. Oshima is convinced that Hitler is dead.

The Japanese envoy said Hitler himself at no time urged Japan's entrance into the war, but that Wahrmacht officers whom he did not identify advocated it. In reply to the charge in a Tokyo newspaper that he made Japan "a dependency of Germany," he said:

"Isn't it clear that with any great power like Japan it would be impossible to go into war upon the demand of another power? Such things must be decided by a nation."

The German view of the Pacific war, Oshima said, was that the distance between the two theaters was so vast it was neither practical or possible to coordinate their efforts "Close collaboration didn't exist" he averted. Nazi leaders judged difficulties of defeating the Allies in the Pacific, believed that Japan would win nevertheless.

Oshima spoke of Hitler as a pure dictator who had his strong and weak sides. Weaknesses showed especially toward the end of the war when things were going badly. The Japanese. Ambassador noted that people said Hitler was an emotionalist, but in his conversations with him, he never saw him blow up. He said he never saw Eva Braun in his visits to the Fuehrer's mountain retreat.

Oshima declined to comment on the fact that he was named on the war crimes list, saying he would offer his defense in court. After being away since 1938 he will have exactly 11 days of freedom before the deadline of surrender at prison.

PEERS RELINQUISH SEATS

Hirota, Ando Resign From House; Nashimoto Quits Shrine Post

Two members of the House of Peers, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Koki Hirota, and former Home Minister Kisaburo Ando, handed in their resignations on Saturday to the president of the House following their designation as war crime suspects.

It was also disclosed that His Imperial Highness Prince Morimasa Nashimoto also handed in his resignation the same day as Lord Custodian of the Grand Shrines of Ise.

The Prince is the first member of the Imperial Family designated recently as a war crime suspect by the Allied Headquarters. He is expected to give himself up at the Omori Prison by December 12 as efforts by the Government to obtain reprieve have failed.

MAY INCREASE DIET SEATS

Social Democratic Party Expects Over 100 in Coming Election

The Social Democratic Party expects to increase its seats in the Diet from the present 15 to more than 100 in the forthcoming general election, Chozaburo Mizutani, leader of the party, said Thursday.

Some 200 Social Democrats will run as candidates for the general election, Mizutani revealed, and he added the number may mount even to 300, according as the people come to know the war responsibility of other parties.

In the event that the Progressive Part is split into several groups, there is a possibility that the Social Democratic Party will become the leading party in the new list, he asserted.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY SET

National Cooperative Organ to Hold Inauguration Tuesday

A new political party, provisionally named the Kokumin Kydoto or National Cooperative Party, is expected to be organized in its inaugural meeting to be held here Tuesday.

With Yuzo Kurosawa, and Chu Funada, members of the House of Representatives, as sponsoring members, the proposed party aims to promote direct relation between producers and consumers and also the development of farming villages and small and medium industrialists in towns and cities.

It is expected the party will be joined by some independents of the Lower House, some members of the Liberal Party and others.

To Be Abolished Next March

The First and Second Demobilization Ministries will be abolished at the end of March, next year. This was revealed in the reply made by the Director of the Bureau of Judicial Affairs of the Demobilization Ministry the interpellation of Baron Motonaga Akashi at the meeting of the Committee on an expost facto approval of the Imperial Ordinance issued in relation to acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration.

Eichelberger in California

Kyodo-AP

LONG BEACH, December 8.—Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger Commander of the U.S. 8th Army in Japan, arrived here from Yokohama today on an army bomber for a 45-day leave at his home in Ashville, North Carolina.

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Government Bares Food Import Plans

¥300 Million of Collateral Prepared; Scheme Is Submitted to SCAP

The Government has prepared ¥300,000,000 worth of textile goods, chemical products, art and other goods as collateral for good imports it was revealed Saturday in a report made public by the Government.

Details of the food importation plan, which was submitted to the Allied Headquarters for approval, were made public at the request of the Committee of the Lower House, studying the land reform bill.

The items listed for importation are as follows:—

Name of Items	Amount of import (all tons)
Korean rice	800,000
Formosan rice	200,000
Manchurian soy beans	500,000
French Indo-China rice	250,000
Thai Rice	100,000
Wheat or wheat flour from U.S.A. and Canada	1,150,000
Total	3,000,000

In addition to cereals, the Government also plans to import 100,000 tons of sugar, 21,000 tons of copra and other necessaries.

As collateral for the above, the Government has prepared the following for export:

	price in yen
Textile goods	159,900,000
Chemical products	36,000,000
Machineries	42,000,000
Groceries	15,700,000
Marine products	20,500,000
Industrial art works	20,500,000
Total	294,200,000

MILITARY GOODS RELEASED

The total amount of military goods which were either released or sold to civilians by the Japanese army following disbandment of units and demobilization of troops following terminatin of the war, was revealed on Thursday. These goods were released to civilians through the prefectural offices, district offices, public organizations, foodstuff corporations, agricultural associations and other bodies.

The total amount of principal military goods released are announced as follows:

Principal clothings (including army uniforms, boots and blankets)	10,931,000 items
Rice	4,155 tons
Wheat	1,574 tons
Cereals	21,804 tons
Wheat flour	988 tons
Unflavored biscuit	872 tons
Tinned food	1,218 tons
Steel ware	8,316 tons
Cement	37,079 tons
Lumber	48,864 cubic meters
Timber	116,750 cubic meters
Motor lorries	1,054
Motor cars	46
Oil	40,649 kiloliters

In view of the fact that there were some cases of extremely vicious disposal of those military goods, the public procurators offices are now active in the apprehension of the suspects.

Labor Draft Bill Passed

The Shidehara Cabinet finally approved the draft bill on the labor union law at a meeting held Saturday at the Diet and the Government immediately took necessary steps to introduce the bill to the Diet at the earliest possible date.

RADIO PROGRAM

MONDAY, December 10

ARMED FORCES RADIO NETWORK
TOKYO KEY STATION WVTR

0630—RISE AND SHINE; 0700—MORNING MEDITATIONS; 0710—MUSICAL MOODS; 0730—NEWS; 0745—Melody Round-Up; 0800—TUNES AND TIMES; 0815—GI Jive; 0830—RHYTHM AND ROMANCE; 0900—To Be Announced; 1015—Spotlight Bands; 1030—At Ease; 1045—CLAUDE FRANK; 1100—LET'S SPEAK JAPANESE; 1115—SHOWCASE; 1130—Fred Waring; 1200—Remember; 1215—Personal Album; 1230—NEWS; 1245—The Sophisticats; 1300—Guy Lombardo; 1330—MATINEE MELODIES; 1400—TOKYO MOSE; 1500—Date With The Duke; 1530—WALT JEFFERYS; 1545—GEMS OF JAZZ; 1600—Charlie McCarthy; 1630—Command Performance; 1700—Magic Carpet; 1715—Supper Club; 1730—Music From America; 1800—NEWS; 1815—Crossviews of the Sportsnews; 1830—Victor Borge; 1900—Your Radio Theater; 2000—GI Journal; 2030—Suspense; 2100—Philadelphia Symphony; 2200—NEWS; 2215—One Night Stand; 2245—Words With Music; 2300—SIGN OFF.

(Shows in CAPS produced in the Tokyo studios.)

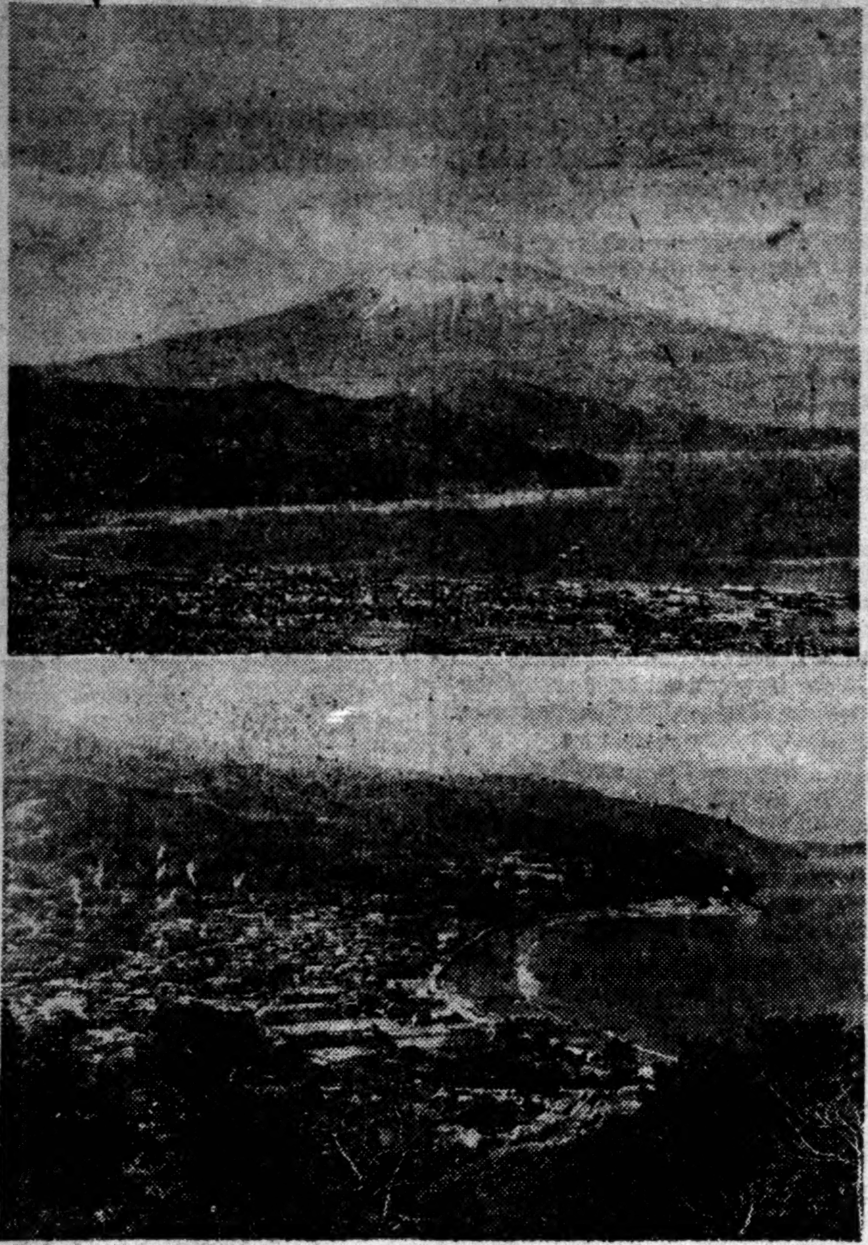
RADIO TOKYO, JOAK
National (870 kcs.)

0600—News; 0615—Farmers' Hour; 0630—English exercise; 0700—News; Weather; Program; Music; 0730—Listeners' Opinions; Music; 0800—Music; 0850—Weather; 0900—Music; 1000—Children's Hour; 1100—National School Hour; 1200—News; 1215—Pipe organ; 1230—"Now It Can Be Told"; 1300—Women's Hour; 1330-1430—Music; 1500—News; 1530—Music; 1600—Program for sick persons; 1655—Music; 1700—News; 1730—Children's Hour; 1800—Music appreciation; 1830—English conversation; 1845—Weather; Program; Music; 1900—News; 1930—Concert; 2000—Farmers' Evening; 2100—Diet Hour; 2130—News; Music; 2200—Weather; Program; Music.

Local (1260 kcs.)

0630-0700—Music; 1700—Young Men and Students' Hour; 1730—Music; 1800—News; 1815—Current topics; 1830—Women's Hour; 1900—Drama; 2000—Light Music; 2030—Story telling; 2100—Diet Hour.

Mt. Fuji and Atami Spa



Above: The snowcapped cone of Mount Fuji as seen from the heights behind Shimizu Harbor. Below: The favorite hot-spring resort of Atami, 15 miles south of Tokyo, lies facing beautiful Sagami Bay on the Izu Peninsula. In the far distance can be seen the Hakone Mountains.

Lake District and Japan's Highest Mountain Are Features of Fuji-Hakone National Park

EDITOR'S NOTE:—This is the second instalment of a series of articles describing Japan's 12 national parks. Others will appear in the following Monday issues of this paper.

The Fuji-Hakone National Park is easily accessible from Tokyo. Mt. Fuji, with its characteristic conical form, has won great fame as the "national mountain of Japan," and its extensive foothills are set with lakes, waterfalls, virgin forests, and various alpine plants. The Hakone district is secluded by lofty peaks, and embraces withni its area 12 hot-spring resorts which, as well as the district about Mt. Fuji's base, offer a variety of recreational facilities throughout the year.

Hakone is rich in picturesque scenery and thermal springs, as well as in historic associations. The scenic beauty and the cool, bracing climate of the district combine to make Hakone an ideal summer resort. There are a number of walks and excursions possible from Miyanoshita, a place which tourist to Japan are strongly advised to make their headquarters when taking a trip to Hakone and the Fuji lakes. Like Lake Chuzenji, Lake Hakone constitutes the chief attraction of the region. A certain spot of the shore commands a fine view of Fujiyama and is well known for the beautiful reflection of the mountain in the lake. Equally delightful is a walk aong the road, skirting the shore of the lake, through the famous cryptomeria avenue. Close to the avenue are the remains of the old Barrier (sekisho). History tells us that in feudal Japan the custom was for all travelers to and from Yedo, the present Tokyo, to be challenged and requested to show their passports at this very spot.

Other principal places of interest in the Hakone region are Nagaotoge (Long Tail Pass), Owakidani, sometimes called Ojigoku (Big Hell), Kowakidani, Gora etc. As has been said already, the spot is frequented chiefly for the superb view of Fuji it commands. Kowakidani is on the way to Lake Hakone from Miyanoshita, and presents a pretty sight in the spring with the cherry-trees abloom. Besides these places there is a golf course at Sengokuhara, some five miles from the Fujiya Hotel.

There are 12 hot-spring resorts in the Hakone district, namely Yumoto, Tonosawa, Miyanoshita, Dogashima, Sokokura, Kiga, Gora, Ubako, Sengokuhara, Kowakidani, Shinoyu, and Yunohana-zawa.

The height of Mt. Fuji is 12,303 feet. Fuji is certainly the highest mountain in the mainland of Japan, there being one, and only one, peak higher than Fuji in Formosa. In spite of its loftiness, Fuji is easy of ascent, as well as of access. The arduous task of conquering the lofty peak is sure to be rewarded with a fine view as well as with inward satisfaction of having achieved something really worth achieving. There can be no doubt that fair Fuji irresistibly appeals to peoples, both native and foreign, when viewed from afar and from different angles. Distance proverbially lends enchantment to the view.

There are six common traits up the mountain, namely, from Yoshida (between Lake Yamanaka and Lake Kawaguchi), Shoji (close to Lake Shoji), Subashirim Gotemba, Suyama and Omiya respectively. Of these approaches Gotemba-guchi, Omiya-guchi and Yoshida-guchi are most commonly resorted to, for they are close to railway stations, and are also accessible by motor; while most climbers descend by Subashiri-guchi, which is the shortest route and well known for the fact that one can come tearng down from the 8th station to the forest line in two short hours by a sandy descent. It is advisable for climbers to vary the route when descending. Two days are generally required for a trip to the summit and back—from any one of the starting-points above mentioned. The ascent takes about 12 hours, and the descent about six hours. There is a meteorological observatory at the summit.

Those who are not satisfied with the accomplishment of the task of reaching the top of Mt. Fuji will find it worth while to go round the crater. This excursion round the crater, a distance of about one and a quarte miles, occupies about an hour.

The chief attraction in the Fuji National Park is a motor excursion to the five Fuji lakes of Yamanaka, Kawaguchi, Saiko, Shoji and Motosu. Lake Yamanaka, on the shores of which stand many villas, affords skating in the winter. So does Lake Kawaguchi. Lake Shoji is well known for the 'Panorama Peak', while Lake Motosu gives an impression of a quiet mountain lake. The best time to visit the Fuji lakes is either the spring or the autumn, for the whole district presents a colourful spectacle with the azaleas abloom in May and the foliage of deciduous trees turning red and golden in October. Summer is also a good time. Those who intend climbing Fuji will find it a good plan to include in the itinerary a trip to the lakes, where they can enjoy boating and fishing.

Progressives Assail Peers' School Regime

Opine Children of Civilians Should Also Enroll; Demand Resignation of President

The Peers' School at Mejiro, Tokyo, exclusive educational institute for the sons and daughters of the Imperial Family and privileged class, has been hit by disturbances and restlessness as have been witnessed in other schools, with progressive elements expressing resentment against the remnants of the old regime, reports the Yomiuri-Hochi.

The conference held sometime ago, announced its decision to abolish the special regulations by which only the sons and daughters of privileged class were qualified to enroll, in favor of opening the school for the education of talented children of civilians. Some favored the opinion that the school should be placed under the management of civilians and reestablished on a new basis.

The outburst of restlessness has been brought to the fore with 10 progressive professors and parents demanding the resignation of President Admiral Katsunoshin Yamanashi and three teachers of Fascist leaning who were accused of having contributed to Japan's war efforts. Upon learning of the resentment against him, Yamanashi is reported to have demanded the resignation of four liberal professors on the excuse that the school budget had to be cut by half.

Meanwhile, the progressive group has accused the Peers' School president of having retained a military officer with the intention of putting him later on the regular staff, charged with supervising the students.

Yamanashi and his satellites are also said to have refused the return of Professor Naobumi Yamamoto, authority on French literature, who was previously forced to leave the institute on the charge of having severely criticized the military clique. The liberal group is reported to be ready to present the matter for deliberation to the Imperial Household Department.

Backs Students' Societies

The committee preparing for the establishment of a nationwide league of university and college students, meeting at Chuo University last week, decided that the students' cooperative societies in universities and college in Tokyo Metropolis should be combined and the Students' Cooperative Society established. The committee also considered the question of the attitude of the Education Ministry toward the dispute between students of Chuo University and the school authorities. It condemned as undemocratic the stand of the school authorities that students should refrain from participating in the administration of school affairs, and decided to draft a resolution of protest to the school authorities.

FBI Trailed Russian Agent in U.S. Alleged To Have Obtained Atomic Bomb Secrets

Kyodo-AP

NEW YORK, December 3.—The journal American here in a copyrighted story said today that for the last two years the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation had been trailing a Russian secret service agent, "who, it is believed, may have obtained atomic bomb secrets."

The New York FBI office declined to comment. At Washington, the State Department, the FBI national headquarters and the Russian Embassy also declined to comment.

The paper said that FBI agents found a package in the agent's room in Chicago in 1943 that was found to contain highly confidential details of "atomic development." The American stated that the agent was living in a downtown hotel which was surrounded by a squad of FBI men operating on a 24-hour basis.

The paper declared that the agent entered the United States from Canada in 1938 and carried forged passports. It said that the man was employed at an obscure New York music shop at $75 weekly but has bank accounts running into thousands of dollars. The paper asserted that the FBI first got on the trail of the agent in Chicago in 1943. Trailing a suspected scientist working on atomic bomb development in Chicago, FBI agents saw him hand a package to the man. FBI agents entered the man's room that night and found the package, which, inspection showed, contained details of atomic bomb development.

The journal added that the scientist was immediately inducted into the army as were over a hundred others believed guilty of passing out atom bomb information. The scientist is now stationed in an obscure South Pacific island "where he can be snatched."

TRANSLATING U.S. BOOKS

Negotiations Now Going on Between MacArthur and Publishing Firm

Translated American books will soon be seen on the shelves of bookstores with negotiations now being carried on between General MacArthur's headquarters and the Japan Publishing Association in regard to securing of translation rights and other agreements between authors and American publishers, according to the Asahi.

All translated books will be handled through the Japan Publishing Association—those which the Japanese desire translated and others which the Allied Headquarters wish to be translated for Japanese reading. Smooth and speedy agreement in regard to translation rights, which have been forfeited at present, is expected to be reached.

Already there have been requests for translations of 10 different kinds of books among which are former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Joseph C. Grew's "Ten Years in Japan," widely read in America during the war. Also books translated and published in Japan before the war and which could not be reprinted, like, Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With The Wind" have been again requested for reprint.

Classified Ads.

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TOKYO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1945

'O Liberty! O Democracy!'

"O Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name!" To be sure, no Madame Roland has been condemned to the guillotine in Japan as yet. But a glance at the present Japanese scene might well inspire at least the paraphrase: "O Democracy! what nonsense is being committed in thy name!"

For too many of the Japanese people have the most fantastic conceptions of democracy. They are all for democracy, of course. In fact, the trouble is that they are too enthusiastic for it. What they think is democracy and what democracy really is are, too often, altogether different things.

The naive and ebullient fervor for democracy on the part of the Japanese people today is understandable enough. They have had more than enough of the old militaristic rule which brought them nothing but oppression and suffering. On the rebound from the old authoritarian regime, the Japanese people are pinning their hopes on democracy as being the thing most exactly opposite the old order which they have come to loathe. So they are all for democracy, whatever it may be.

But democracy does not happen to be just anything which is different from the old regime. And not fully realizing this fact may lead to comic, and eventually to tragic, results. To be sure, habituated to the customs of a lifetime, the Japanese people are still a bit timid about giving vent to their enthusiasm for democracy too demonstratively. But when they do express themselves, they are pretty apt to reveal that they are way off the track.

For instance, a man smokes in a crowded and stuffy street car in open defiance of the "No Smoking" sign, saying that he is being democratic in doing as he pleases. Another rides way past the station his ticket calls for and refuses to pay additional fare, storming at the astounded conductor that it is undemocratic to force passengers to abide by the regulations. Some Japanese girls have grown so bold as to go openly chasing after a not too enthusiastic G.I., thinking that that is being democratic, little realizing that even in democratic America the most successful and seductive sirens know how to be coy. And an incurably meek housewife stands patiently in a long line for her rations, saying that it is democratic for everyone to endure these hardships together. But only a few months ago she was standing in the same kind of line in exactly the same way because that was the way the totalitarian government told her she should receive her rations. Where is the democracy in all these actions that are being committed in its name?

Contrary to the notions of many Japanese, democracy does not mean doing anything one pleases; it does not mean doing things which may cause discomfort or inconvenience to other people; it does not mean ignoring all rules and defying constituted authority; it does not mean a breach of good taste and good manners. Democracy stands for order and discipline and authority and self-restraint even more than does totalitarianism, for these things under totalitarianism rested on the false basis of arbitrary force whereas under democracy they rest on the sounder basis of rational thinking and common consent. Democracy does not mean anarchy; liberty does not mean license; individualism does not mean the ignoring of the common good.

The ridiculous mistakes and excesses of the Japanese people are natural enough in view of their previous lack of opportunity to learn anything better. Time and experience and the good old trial and error method should on the whole wear away most of the rough spots.

But this situation should not be entirely dismissed with a laugh. For there is potential danger and tragedy lurking behind the comedy. If the mistakes and excesses committed in the name of democracy go too far and are left uncorrected too long, they will discredit democracy in the eyes of the more stable elements among the Japanese people. There is danger that a reaction will set in and that, on the basis of experience with pseudo-democracy, there will develop a prejudice against real democracy.

For the sake of the successful growth of real democracy in Japan, it should be the concern of those who know something about it to scotch the nonsense which is being committed in its name.

READERS IN COUNCIL

Revision of the Constitution

To the Editor:

Japan has had a great failure which was never experienced in her history. Some men seem to attribute this failure to the defects of the Meiji Constitution. But I say the reason why we failed is because we did not observe the constitution faithfully. Especially the prerogatives of the emperor, which are now the focus of discussion. But I say the fact that the prerogatives; being kindered by some power, had never been literally exercised by the which was the cause of our guilt. Those who attribute our crime to the defects of the constitution are to the constitution what the prodigal son was to his fathers' lessons, having dissipated all his inherited property. If they had obeyed the lessons faithfully, they would not have failed. It is rather ridiculous that these prodigal sons are now discussing the revision of their family lessons.

Of course I admit that the revised constitution is necessary. I realize too that now is the time when the constitution must be revised. But it must be done by those who are qualified to do it. Those who have determined to live and die with the constitution should be qualified to revise the constitution. Without this unflinching attitude, even if the ideal revised constitution should be established, it would be sure to be neglected or wiped out as if it were a piece of waste-paper when some powerful clique should spring up again. Indeed the items of the constitution are very important, but the mind to keep it faithfully is far more important. Frankly speaking, if we were democratized completely in mind, the administration would be carried out naturally along the lines of democracy, even if the constitution itself does not exist.

I am glad that GHQ is trying to democratize our country, getting rid of many obstacles, and is trying to revise the constitution in such a way that the popular will can be easily and naturally shown in the administration. But unless the strong determination to observe it at the risk of life is not cultivated, it would be blown down sooner or later when a powerful diplomat should appear again. The populace may follow blindly but at least the draftmen should fight against the unreasonable power sacrificing their lives.

At present the revision of the constitution is being made by those who have not observed it at all. I fear it should fortell the future of the revised constitution.

F. NAKAMURA

Tokyo

'Double Responsibility'

The New York Times

Meeting in Washington in the first conference of the atomic age, President Truman and Prime Ministers Attlee and King have arrived at an agreement which takes full account of their double responsibility for the welfare of mankind as a whole and for the safety of their individual nations.

The agreement recognizes that no nation can in fact have a monopoly of the atomic bomb; that at the same time there is no effective way of stopping an aggressor nation from using it; and that the only protection against it and similar weapons lies in the prevention of war itself. For that reason, it demands whole-hearted support of the United Nations Organization and the creation of conditions of mutual trust and devotion to the arts of peace. And as a first step toward that end it entrusts to the United Nations the task of working out the rules that must govern the atomic age if civilization is to survive.

The agreement makes no explicit conditions for sharing the secrets of the atomic bomb, but there is no mistaking its implications. It declares that in the absence of the necessary safeguards, the spreading of such information would scarcely contribute to a constructive solution of the problem, but might rather have the opposite effect in a world which must still establish the rule of law and banish the scourge of war.

In short, the three nations have issued an invitation to all to drop power politics and rivalries and to join which them in the promotion of peace and progress.

LIBERAL MP CLAIMS HIS PARTY CAN SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM

Stresses Adoption of Democratic Setup Advocated By His Organization

The following is the interpellatory speech addressed to the Prime Minister by Ichiro Hatoyama, Liberal, at the 89th Diet session:

I desire first of all to express the feelings of respect I entertain toward the Government for their efforts to carry out the arduous tasks they have before them at this most critical period in the history of our country. Representing the Japanese Liberal Party, it is my intention today to question the Government on several important points connected with their present administrative policy.

The first point is in regard to the question of world outlook. The view mankind has taken of the world has undergone many changes in the course of time but a study of these views shows that they are all formed more or less on ideas of division and segregation, and politics among the nations of the world has until today, invariably taken a course that is indicated by these ideas. Some nations before now have attempted the unification of the world, but the idea which prompted it being that of conquest, which, in turn, was the outcome of ideas of division, these attempts are seen to be a series of invasions carried out by one country against another. The Prussian idea of aggrandizement and politics based on miliarism have both arisen from the same sources. And should men continue to entertain such ideas, it is impossible that mankind shall ever expect to achieve any lasting measure of happiness for itself, since, with the progress now being made in science, the world soon become more and more the arena of powerful nations praying on the weak.

Transitory in Character

This has given rise to a new outlook among men, based on a desire to see permanent peace established, but if a relationship of sovereign and subject is allowed to remain between individual nations, this new movement must also end in failure, It is of course necessary that certain measures be taken to regulate the relations between the victors and the vanquished, and between civilized nations and those that are not, but these measures must in their nature be of a transitory character, and the ultimate policy to be followed between nations requires, in my opinion, to be founded on an idea of the world as an entity composed of equally and mutually responsible parties. I would like to know the attitude of the Government on this matter.

Secondly, I would like to question the Government concerning the establishment of democracy in this country.

The problem before us is: In what way can we set up a form of government based on liberty, democracy, and the love of peace?

In this connection, I would first like to hear the opinion of the Government concerning the limit to be given to a democratic government.

England is a free country governed by her Parliament, but the King and the Hohse of Lords are not democratic institutions, so that the political system there cannot be called completely democratic. America is a free and democratic country.

The Prime Minister has pointed out the urgent necessity of establishing a democratic form of Government and has declared this to be the basis of his administrative policy. I would like to know what his ideas are concerning democratic government. The common good of nations does not require that every country shall have the same form of government. Rather, each country should be permitted to have is own form of government considered by its people to be the most desirable.

In Complete Harmony

In Japan, the sovereign of the Emperor has always been one of the fundamental beliefs of our people, so that a discussion of the merits of the system is enough to raise in us a felling of desecration. Our country is a ypical is a typical example of a state founded on the idea of the family head and our political structure may be considered an enlargement of the family sysem. Here the general and the individual, authority and freedom, command and obedience, instinct and reason and economics and morality find themselves in complete harmony, and at the center of our nation which has developed along the lines indicated by this harmony is the Emperor. The idea of losing this center is abhorrent to us. Moreover, the presence of the Emperor is necessary to us as an effective safeguard against various political defects that have their origin in our national character. The Japanese as a race are excitable, they love power and to bend to power. These characteristics account for the bitterness of our political struggles and necessitates the presence of the Emperor whose authority remains aloof from, and beyond the reach of these struggles. Neither must we forget that the traditional policy of the Emperors has been to rule the country according to the wishes of their subjects, so that in that sense the Emperor may be justly considered the most democratic institution in our country. But it has often happened that some one element of the country or another interposed itself between the Emperor and His subjects the most recent example of this being the direct cause of Japan laying aside her peaceful aims and entering the war which brought about such direful consequences. For this reason alone, it is necessary to take steps to ensure that no such obstacles be placed again in the future between the Emperor and His subjects.

The Government have declared the establishment of democracy limit to their basic policy, but the lilt to be set to democracy in the Japanese form of government remains to be defined. I beg the Government to give me their opinion on this matter.

In the second place, I would like to question the Government as to how they propose to deal wtih the defects of democratic government.

Began in Greece

The negation of the absolute value of democracy began in ancient Greece with Aristotle and in later times, Carlyle has held that the casting of votes is useful as a means of knowing the desires of the people, since it is foolish to carry out measures without regard to the will of the people, but to decide everything in obedience to it is to drift and not to steer, when to steer is the essence of the art of governing. For this reason, Carlyle places importance on autocratic power.

We cannot deny the defects in the democratic system of government, nor that these defects carry with them danger of democratic government being overthrown and replaced by autocracy. I would like to know in what way the Government propose to deal with these defects and so ensure the permanence of a form of government based on liberty, democracy, and love of pease.

The First World War was said to be a war to end war, but it turned out to be a war to prepare new wars. After that war, Soviet Russia established an autocracy of the proletariat, Austria, Hungary and Jugoslavia also became autocratic states. Italy, dissatisfied with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, was won over to Fascism by Germany. Germany, that had started with a trully democratic constitution, turned to Nazism, Poland became a militaristic autocracy and Turkey also adopted a completely autocratic regime.

If Japan does not meet democracy fully prepared, no one can guarantee that autocracy and the reactionary elements will not come back again in force. The only measure for the establishment of democracy that the Government has so far submitted to the Diet is the election Bill which advocates a major electoral district system coupled with the irrational dural ballot system. It is axiomatic that a major electoral disriet system adopted without regard to the actual state of political parties ends in the needless setting up of an unnecessary number of smaller parties. If that is the case, it is difficult to see in what way one is to ensure stability in politics. Meanwhile, the defects of democracy will be made manifest, and many necessary measures for the relief of the people prevented from being put into force. This will eventually lead to the establishment of autocracy. History shows that this is the usual course of events.

It is regrettable that the Government, in their endeavor to establish democracy, should merely propose a reform of the election laws without any regard to the defects inherent in the democratic system of government, nor any thought as to the future.

Educational Reform Vital

Thirdly, I entirely agree with the Government that the key to the realization of a truly democratic form of government lies in the reform of the educational system.

The regeneration of Japan must begin with the awakening of each Japanese to the fact of the dignity of individual personality. True liberalism respects and the rights of man on which individhal personality is based. Liberalism is no other than such a respect for the human character. Liberty has little to do with wanton action. We are free if philosophy enables us to rise above our sorrows. We also become free when we learn to love all things. The aim of education must be to perfect individual character and to teach men to respect the personality of each other.

The Government are right in saying that the basic factor in the realization of a democratic form of government is the reform of the educational system. But it seems to me necessary to remind the Government that in this instance, the value of the idea lies solely in putting it into practice.

By order of General MacArthur's Headquarters, the Government have dismissed all the chiefs of the prefectual police and members of the special police withoht exception. But with regard to governors of prefectures and other officials, who, during the elections of April 1942, were directly concerned in a series of the most oppressive official acts of interference ever recorded in our constitutional history, the Government have not only refrained from taking any steps as to the removal of these officials but are even permitting them to be promoted to higher positions. I would like to know if the Government think it possible to carry out the aims of national education in a constitutional country while these officials still remain in responsible positions.

Fourthly, because democratic government is founded on the vote of the majority, it is apt to invite discord among the people. To prevent this, a spirit of love requires to be fostered. But it is incumbent on the Government as a preliminary step to review the causes of social evils.

Stresses Food Problems

The gravity of the present social unrest is reaching a degree hitherto unknown. The cause of it is to be sought first of all in the difficulty for the people to maintain their lives, especially the shortage of such staple provisions as rice and wheat. The state is founded on the people, and no people can subsist without food. Should this be lacking, it is not possible to expect from the people healthy ideas or moral elevation, or enthusiam for work. If we leave the people to face starvation, it is certain that seditious ideas will seize hold of their minds and lead our country irresitibly toward destruction. It is clear therefore that the solution of the food problem has the priority of all others.

There are two aspects to the problem. The first is how to deal with the present fool shortage, and the second, how to assure the food supply in the future. The first must be met by the immediate importation of rice. General MacArthur's Headquarters have already granted us permission to do so, but whether this can be done in sufficient quantities and whether transport facilities will be offered us so as really to ward of national starvation depend on the ability of the Japanese people to convince the Allies that they have become a truly democratic and peace-loving nation. As regards the second aspect of the production of fertilizer and agricultural implements must be increased from the next year onward, while fresh land must be cultivated by the mobilization of labor, the amount of food still found wanting to be supplied through importation. The problem in both its aspects can be solved by political means, that is to say by the adoption of a form of democratic government such as is advocated by our party. Politics therefore is no longer a matter of theory and verbal argument but one of vital importance directly linked to the problem of feeding the nation. What the people are demanding is immediate action, which the Government shows little sign of taking.

I would like to hear the opinion of the Prime Minister concerning this point.

Question, of Russia

New York Herald Tribune

The three-nation statement on the atomic bomb, quite obviously, is addressed to Soviet Russia. Issued three months ago it would have represented a sound beginning to which the Russians might have been expected to respond in kind. After all the mistrust which has been sown by the bungling since then one is less sure of the reception it is likely to receive in the Kremlin. If the Russians are able to rise to the deadly, over-all importance of this question of military-scientific development, they will use the Truman-Attlee-Mackenzie King gesture as an opening toward a genuine international solution. If they take the narrowly suspicious view which certain aspects of the statement would seem well calculated to engender, and to which the Russians, it must be granted, are a good deal too prone at the best of times, then the statement will simply be another empty set of words and the proposed UNO commission simply another powerless wraith upon the international scene.

'Leadership Needed'

Philadelphia Record

Our Western civilization produced the atomic bomb.

The United States-British-Canadian joint statement shows that we have not reached any clear-cut decision on what to do with it.

President Truman and Prime Ministers Attlee and King reported some progress. But as a whole, their statement sounded pre-atomic.

Our political leaders haven't yet caught up with our scientists.

It is encouraging to find in the communique mention of "consolidating and extending" the authority of the United Nations. But there is no suggestion on how the UNO can be strengthened to cope with the new weapon.

Reparations Body Set Up

The Finance Ministry announced Saturday the creation of a new section within the Ministry headed by Takei Tojo, research official, to handle matters relating to reparations.

UTTER ECONOMIC CHAOS SEEN UNLESS DRASTIC STEP TAKEN

Cancellation of Wartime Promise to Indemnify Munitions Firms Only Means of Checking Inflation

By HYOYE OUCHI
Professor at the Tokyo Imperial University
In Shin-Sei or New Life

In a radio speech the other day, I addressed some plain words to the Finance Minister. The purport of my speech was that there was no need to fulfill all the war-time promise to indemnify the munitions firms for their losses. The fulfilment of all such promises, I insisted, would involve State bankruptcy not once but two or three times, and the dreadful currency inflation arising from such a procedure would inevitably throw the masses of the people into a horrible plight of starvation. I spoke from an economic and social point of view.

Financial circles at once raised a noisy protest. The cancellation of the government promises, they declared, would produce an acute financial crisis, for there were not a few firms with claims upon the government amounting to billions. If such firms went bankrupt, the banking institutions must also go bankrupt. If the latter went bankrupt, the depositors must lose their accounts. This would aggravate the unemployment problem. The small despositors and laborers would thus be involved in the financial maelstrom. This was the substance of their complaint.

To this, I reply that, granted that such a thing might happen, the step recommended cannot be avoided if the horrors of currency inflation are too great, and if there is no other way to avert the catastrophe. Japan is now on the verge of death from a chronic intestinal catarrh, so to speak, and if the use of a purgative will save its life, there should be no hesitation to apply the remedy in spite of a temporary inconvenience. The question which side of the argument is correct depends upon th disagnosis on the condition of the Japanese body economic, and I believe I can produce for my contentions convicing figures if required.

Should Not Break Pledge

There is another group of opponents. The State should never break its pledges, this group declares. If the State makes itself guilty of such a breach, the people will no longer believe the government. This is an argument of moral order. A government goes down, says Confucius, when it forfeits confidence. But I believe I can dispose of this argument without much difficulty.

The keeping of faith in human life postulates the continuation of stable conditions. If a man makes an appointment to meet a friend, he will be unable to keep his promise in case of the stoppage of tramcars or of the telephone or in case of bad weather. Even in such cases, he will do his best to meet his friend, but the promise he made cannot be absolute or unconditional. The wise man adapts himself, says Confucius, to altered conditions. If circumstances change, the attitude of a ruler must change. In such cases, the wise legislator will revise laws in order to adjust social norms to the objective situation.

Laws imply promises in substance if not in form, and every revision of a law means some modification of a promise. In this sense, the State is constantly altering its pledges. Without this alteration, there can be no progress in State life. Even the national Constitution, which has been declared an "immutable law," is going to be changed. Fundamentally speaking, the insistence upon an absolute or unconditional pledge is not worth treating as a serious question.

There are many instances in history of the public debt being repudiated or public obligations cancelled. In the history of Japan this procedure, which has been known as "tokusei" (benevolent measure), occurred in the Kamakura, Ashikaga, and Tokugawa eras. By such a measure not only was public debt cancelled but obligations between private individuals were adjusted. In the Meiji Era, the post-Restoration Government first took upon itself the debts of the feudatory governments of the pre-Restoration days, but these debts were later cancelled.

This was effected by an Ordinance of 1875 on the Old and New Debts. Under this ordinance, national bonds bearing no interest were given for the obligations contracted during a specified period, but no notice was taken of older obligations. Was the post-Restoration Government guilty of a breach public faith? Not at all; for, from the standpoint of a centralized modern government which stood on the negation of feudalism, the recognition of feudal debts, however limited, was certainly an act of benevolence.

There are many other instances of this kind in the history of other countries. The Turkish and Egyptian repudiation of public debts after national bankruptcies, and the Russian repudiation of public obligations after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, are rather notorious examples in recent times. But instances of repudiation in a milder form are more numerous.

Public Bonds Reduced

The history of English public debt since the sixteenth century is, in fact, a history of partial repudiation through the alternation of the terms of public bonds. The 5 per cent bonds issued by the British government in enormous quantities during the Napoleonic wars were converted by Gladstone into 2.5 per cent bonds or Consols. This was a great achievment famous in the history of public debt, albeit a partial repudiation in substance if in form. When, after the Russo-Japanese War, Prince Taro Katsura converted 5 per cent war bonds into 4 per cent bonds, he was justly praised for his achievement, though this was again an instance of partial repudiation.

Currency inflation itself is a great breach of faith on the part of the State. The Japanese Government is already guilty of this offense. This is clearly seen from the ten-yen bank notes in circulation. The old notes carry the promise of the Bank of Japan to pay the bearer ten yen in gold, but the new notes do not carry any such promise. The Bank of Japan does not pay the bearer, whether of old or new notes, anything in gold. The Japanese Government has recognized, and even demanded, such a breach of faith has opened the way to inflation. The Japanese Government has done such a thing without consulting the people. In contrast with this surreptious method followed by the Government, I proposed, and still propose, the cancellation of war-time obligations by an open method, namely by an act of the Diet.

I insist upon the cancellation of these obligations in order to prevent a dreadful currency inflation. It is a measure against innumerable social injustices. Where a serious inflation rages, no transaction can be fair, a deterioration of the currency involving an equal deterioration in the moral standard. In this regard, the Japanese people have had enough experience during the last few years. The black market is, in fact, a revolt against currency inflation. Economic crimes have recently formed the greater number of crimes in Japan. The deterioration of the moral standard cannot be prevented, unless a serious currency inflation is averted. The cancellation of war-time obligation is a means to the general end of maintaining social justice. The end, correctly understood, will justify the means.

Will Check Social Unrest

The prevention of inflation has the object not only to safeguard transactions but to check the growth of social unrest due to the inequality in the distribution of wealth. Currency inflation deprives the masses of their purchasing power, and transfer it to the propertied class including speculators. A small minority will become richer than ever before, while the masses will be plunged into destitution. The prevention of such a state of affairs implies the prevention of the danger threatening social stability. The checking of the growth of social inequalities has, therefore, a high moral value. Under an inflationary situation, the propertied class becomes more wealthy, not by producing new economic values but by the mere fact of owning, while the toiling masses are reduced to utter penury, because the prices of necessaries go up more quickly and far above the increase in wages. No injustice can be more reprehensible than this sort of injustice. In the last ten years, the masses have learnt what currency inflation means in terms of their daily-life. For a considerable number of people starvation, they know, is the final consequence of currency inflation. The prevention of inflation means the prevention of starvation. Can anybody deny the higher morality of cancelling war-time obligations?

The change from militarism to democracy is a great transformation. This change must be at once political, economic, and moral. The new social end sets a new norm to morality which can realize its value only in practical life. We are setting up social well-being as the end, after the repudiation of militarism. The cancellation of the obligations undertaken by the militarist government and the salvation of men and women struggling to keep soul and body together—this forms the foundation upon which I base my contentions. Great resentment is perhaps unavoidable on the part of a small minority who are out to preserve what they secured thanks to the disastrous policy of the government in the past, but the masses who are coming to the consciousness of their own, politically, economically, and morally, will support my contentions. In a great cause, even a parent must be sacrificed, says the author of the Tso-tzu-chuan. With these words the moralist pointed long ago to the right way.